

INTRODUCTION

- * The church of Corinth was a church that reflected the multiculturalism of the city wherein it sat. As such, they struggled in knowing how to apply their new faith in the One True God in a world of hedonism and idolatry. Additionally, they struggled with the conflicting Libertine views of the Gentiles and the Legalistic views of the Jews.
- * In the past two weeks, we have seen Paul's reminder to the Corinthians of God's sovereign ownership of the church and His involvement in the putting together of the members. The church belongs to God. We gather together to worship and serve Him.
- * However, being sinful, self-focused humans we quickly lose focus on God and begin to focus on our desires, cultural norms and personal interpretations ... and then impose them upon the interactions of the assembly.
- * When that occurs, schisms are not are not far behind.
- * Sadly, the early church was noted for "multiplication" ... but today's church is more noted by "division."
- * Paul addresses this issue very succinctly at the beginning of the Epistle..

INSTRUCTION:**I. THE E _____ OF DIVISIONS (cf. 1:10-12)**

A. ... Is O _____ to the N _____ of the Church (cf. 1:10)

B. ... Is R _____ in the C _____ of the Church (cf. 1:11-12)

II. THE C _____ OF DIVISIONS (cf. 2:1-13)

A. Trusting in the Wisdom of Man Leads to Misplaced S _____ Faith

... Trusting in the _____ of man rather than the _____ of God!

* cf. Matthew 23:14-15; 2 Corinthians 11:2-4; Galatians 1:6-12; Romans 1:15-17

B. Trusting in the Wisdom of Man Leads to Misplaced S _____ Faith (2 Tim 3:1-7; 2 Tim 4:1-5; 1 Tim 1:3-11)

... Trusting in the _____ of man rather than the _____ of God!

1. CONSIDER PAUL'S STATEMENTS CONCERNING THE END TIMES (cf. 2 Tim 3:1-7; 2 Tim 4:1-5)

2. CONSIDER PAUL'S ENCOURAGEMENT TO TIMOTHY REGARDING HIS MINISTRY (1 Tim 1:3-11)

III. THE R _____ OF DIVISIONS (cf. 2:10-3:23)

A. The Co _____ of Man

B. The Co _____ of Man

1. THE _____ MAN (cf. 2:14; Jude 1:17-21; James 3:13-17)

2. THE _____ MAN (cf. 2:13-15; 3:1)

3. THE _____ MAN (cf. 3:1,3; Romans 7:14)

INTROSPECTION

- * DO YOU SPEND MORE TIME READING THE WORD OF GOD ... OR THE WORD OF MAN?
- * HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT WHAT YOU BELIEVE IS TRULY WHAT GOD HAS TAUGHT?
- * DO YOU SPEND TIME BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD SEEKING HIS COUNSEL AND WISDOM IN DISCERNING THE TRUTH OF HIS WORD?
- * WHICH "MAN" MOST DESCRIBED YOU: THE PSYCHIKOS MAN, PNEUMATIKOS MAN, OR THE SARKIKOS MAN?
- * IS THERE A NEED TO "CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK" ... AND, THEREFORE, ACT?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

- * Consider your past church experiences. If you have been involved in (or seen) church schisms, what were the primary issues? Were there specific individuals who were at the fore-front of each position?
- * How should we handle differences of opinion? What should we, as a church, be doing pro-actively to guard against divisions in the body?